

Rep. Slaughter Announces \$300,000 in Federal Funding for Monroe County Crime Lab

Improvements Will Assist Prosecution of Fraud, Drug Trafficking, and Embezzlement

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today joined Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, Ken Hyland, the first Assistant District Attorney for Monroe County, and Undersheriff Dan Greene, to announce \$300,000 in federal funding the Congresswoman has secured for Monroe County's new Crime Lab.

"We need to stay ahead of criminals who seek to do our communities and citizens harm," Rep. Slaughter said. **"We owe our thanks to the courageous officers who have dedicated themselves to our safety, and they must continue to be given everything they need for success."**

The money will be used to construct the lab's Computer Forensics Module, a critically important component that will reduce the backlog of cases awaiting evidence analysis and assist in the prosecution of crimes involving acts like child pornography, fraud, embezzlement and drug trafficking.

The funding was secured in the Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill signed into law by Congress on November 22nd.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the needs of the fast-growing area of computer and digital analysis are not being met locally. Pornography, fraud, white collar crime and drug trafficking are just some of the areas the Crime Lab improvement project will address. Implementation of this type of analysis in the crime laboratory will better allow the region to deal with the rapid advances in digital evidence technology, in addition to the need to have this area accredited.

Computer technology is expanding at a tremendous rate, and the Computer Forensics Module could involve partnering with MCC and other local educational institutions to create education and training opportunities - especially in the area of advanced digital evidence analysis. It will also reduce the backlog of analysis for prosecution and will compliment the FBI and Secret Service Regional Computer Labs.

The County is also planning to redesign and add additional capabilities to all aspects of the crime laboratory in order to better serve the entire Monroe region. Redoing the entire lab will cost approximately \$24 million.

